



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Monday - December 1, 2003

- ***In the West***, rain and snow showers are confined to ***northern and central California*** and parts of the ***Northwest***. The precipitation is maintaining very wet conditions in ***western Washington***, but aiding winter grains and boosting high-elevation snow packs elsewhere in the ***Northwest***.
- ***On the Plains***, recent warmth has melted much of winter wheat's protective snow cover across the ***northern half of the region***, leaving the poorly established crop vulnerable to potential cold outbreaks. Meanwhile, slightly cooler air is overspreading the ***southern High Plains***, where weekend warmth promoted final summer crop harvesting but further reduced soil moisture for winter wheat growth.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, wet field conditions continue to slow final corn harvesting in the ***lower Great Lakes region***. Dry, seasonably cool weather prevails elsewhere in the ***Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, mild weather is returning, following widespread frosts and freezes during the last week. Although the cool weather slowed the development of winter grains and cool-season pastures, late-autumn fieldwork advanced, especially in the ***southern Atlantic States***.

Outlook: Early in the week, a high-pressure system will provide chilly, mostly dry weather to the ***eastern half of the U.S.***, although scattered snow showers are likely downwind of the ***Great Lakes***. Meanwhile, light rain and snow will accompany a warm front across ***northern portions of the Plains and Rockies***, while a weakening Pacific storm system will trigger rain and high-elevation snow in the ***Great Basin and Pacific Coast States***. By mid-week, highly beneficial rain will overspread the ***central and southern Plains***, while locally heavy rain will accompany a strong cold front in the ***Pacific Northwest***. At week's end, the development of an ***East Coast*** winter storm may produce breezy, unsettled conditions, including the possibility of snow in the ***Appalachians***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 6-10 calls for above-normal precipitation across the ***Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic States***, as well as the ***Great Basin and Pacific Northwest***. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal conditions are expected across the ***central and southern Rockies*** and ***northern Plains***. Warmer-than-normal weather is likely across ***most of the contiguous U.S.***, except for near-normal temperatures in the ***Southwest***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>